

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resource Commission**

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**ITEM**

**12**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC      Contract with The Food Bank of Iowa for HUSH**

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Commission approval is requested for a three-year year-service contract with The Food Bank of Iowa of Des Moines, IA. The contract will begin May 15, 2010 and terminate May 14, 2013. The total amount of this contract shall not exceed \$5 per deer processed through the HUSH program.

This contract will be funded through income received from the \$1 HUSH fee on all deer licenses, with additional support from the Fish and Wildlife Trust Fund, as needed. In the last 2 years, the \$1 fee has provided about \$400,000, with an average of \$150,000 additional funding per year from the Trust Fund.

HUSH was initiated with the 2003 deer season as an incentive to hunters to harvest more deer, and to provide lean and healthy meet to Iowans in need. Venison comprises more than ½ of all the Food Bank's red meat distributed to the needy. Figures for deer donations during the 2009-10 season are not yet available, but for 2003-2008, 31,329 deer have been donated, amounting to more than 6 million, quarter-pound servings. The Food Bank of Iowa is a major partner in HUSH, arranging venison distribution, making more than 300 total payments per year to participating lockers, and collecting information for the DNR on donated deer.

Because of the Food Bank of Iowa's partnership, the DNR can operate the HUSH program with less than 0.2 FTEs, unlike other states that run a deer donation program who must devote from 1 to 3 FTEs to their operations.

The Food Bank of Iowa is a sole source provider due to its direct access to the food distribution system for Iowa's needy and its administrative staff being able to perform the financial arrangements.

Ross Harrison, HUSH Program Coordinator  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
April 8, 2010